process of endochondral ossification has not yet been recognized (1) and recent investigations have shown that rapid growth and high body weight, or large size, are not implicated in the pathogenesis of this disease (1,3,10). The weight gain and growth rate for this horse were not recorded; however, for a 14-month-old draft horse, he was above average for both weight and size.

In summary, the clinical manifestation of ataxia in this case was consistent with cervical vertebral malformation, but the pathologic finding illustrated an atlanto-occipital instability associated with osteochondritic lesions on the occipital condyle and atlanto-occipital dysplasia. It is unknown as to which of these lesions was primary or secondary. There are numerous reports of equine atlanto-occipital dysplasia being the inciting cause of ataxia, primarily in Arabian foals. However, to the authors knowledge, there is only 1 published report of osteochondrosis of the occipital condyles in the horse. This case report suggests that occipital osteochondrosis should be considered as a differential diagnosis in horses that present with clinical signs consistent with cervical vertebral malformation. CVJ

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BOOK REVIEW

COMPTE RENDU DE LIVRE

Quinn PJ, Markey BK, Carter ME, Donnelly WJ, Leonard FC. ***Veterinary Microbiology and Microbial Disease.*** Iowa State University Press, Ames, Iowa, USA, 2002. 536 pp. ISBN 0-632-05525-1. US$79.99.

Knowing what and how much to teach the modern veterinary student about pathogenic bacteriology and virology is a challenging topic. I would give this book a "B+" or "A-". It has many similarities to Hirsh and Zee's Veterinary Microbiology (2nd edition), to which it is a more up-to-date superior. It seems extraordinary, however, that the same publisher (Blackwell Scientific) should publish 2 very similar books.

This book is an introductory text in veterinary microbiology and microbial disease for veterinary undergraduates, written by faculty members at University College, Dublin. It is divided into 6 sections, an introduction to bacteriology, a large section of systematic pathogenic bacteriology, mycology, an introduction to virology, a large section on systematic pathogenic virology, and a final section on microbial agents and disease production (which has some slightly quirky choice chapters).

The book is well laid out and well illustrated with line drawings. It has excellent tables. Students will find it useful for its clear organization and introductory overview nature, as well as its currentness of nomenclature. It is a little heavy on biochemical and related differentiating characteristics of important bacteria and too superficial about some of the important infections it describes. However, reasonably good thumbnail sketches are given of the essential features of the infections discussed, which a student encountering them for the first time will find generally helpful. This text is a bit weak on *Helicobacter, Campylobacter,* and nonsporeforming anaerobes. With a view to help today's veterinary student who is struggling with being overwhelmed by information, the book uses "boxes" of key concepts relating to different groups of bacteria or viruses. Some of these miss key points, while emphasizing what seems trivial. For example, is it really a key point about *Brucella* that they are urease-positive and mostly oxidase-positive? How memorable is this for veterinary students as an encapsulated feature of this genus? Each chapter has a list of references cited and a list of suggested supplemental reading. This is probably wasted space, since abstracts of the primary literature are available to anyone with Internet access to PubMed within days of it being published.

A particular strength of the book is its introductory or overview chapters; the chapters on disinfection and on other aspects of disease control, and on infection and immunity, show great teachers at work. There are excellent illustrative figures and tables explaining some of the fundamental concepts of infectious disease and its outcomes, which will be of use to teachers and students alike.

Overall, this is a book that can be recommended with confidence to veterinary students and teachers as a good introductory overview of veterinary microbiology. I will particularly value it on my bookshelf for some of the overview figures and for some of the summary tables.

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